

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/541,418

Examiner

Ramnandan Singh

Applicant(s)

STENGER, ALEXANDER

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Aug 17, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9 and 11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's response filed Aug 17, 2007.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11 are pending in the present application.

Drawings

2. The drawings filed Aug 17, 2007 are approved.

Specification

3. The amendment to the specification is approved.

4. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT/COMMENT

Applicant has agreed to the following amendment during his telephonic interview with the Examiner held on Aug 29, 2007:

1) In the claims:

- (i) Claim 1, line # 11, delete "near".
- (ii) Claim 1, line # 19, change "said" to -- an--.
- (iii) Claim 1, line # 22, change "near maximum" to --maximum -- .
- (iv) Claim 1, line # 22, change "near minimum" to --minimum -- .

- (v) Claim 1, line # 25, change "limited" to --reduced -- .
 - (vi) Claim 6, line # 7, delete "near".
 - (vii) Claim 11, line # 9, change "high" to -- maximum--.
 - (viii) Claim 11, line # 9, after "continuously" --exponentially decayed--
has been inserted.
 - (ix) Claim 11, line # 10, change "low" to -- minimum--.
- The Interview summary is enclosed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 11 recites a method and limitations for the following: "setting of an echo suppression factor(s) for the suppression of echo, characterized in that the echo-suppression factor(s) is reduced gradually and continuously exponentially decayed from a maximum suppression value set while a speech signal is present in the input audio signal (a1) to a minimum echo-suppression value if it is detected that the input audio signal (A1) does not contain any speech signal". The prior art of record does not teach these limitations. Therefore, claim 11 is indicated allowable.

Claim 1 is essentially similar to claim 11 and hence is indicated allowable. Further, claims 3-9 being dependent from claim 1 are also indicated allowable.

New search updates reveal no other prior art which teaches the limitations in the context of the claims.

6. The claims have been re-numbered as follows:

CLAIMS NUMBER (ORIGINAL)	CLAIMS NUMBER (FINAL)
1	1
3-9	2-8
11	9

Claim no. 1 along with figure number 1 will be published in the Official Gazette.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose

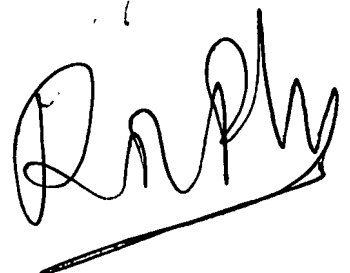
Art Unit: 2614

telephone number is (571) 272-7529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramnandan Singh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramnandan Singh', is written over a horizontal line.